

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05548 141608Z

51

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5548

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT YO US UR XF

SUBJECT: TITO INTERVIEW IN MILITARY JOURNAL

1. SUMMARY: TITO INTERVIEW DENOUNCES IMPERIALIST ACTIVITIES AROUND WORLD, HITS US POLICY RE SOUTH VIETNAM AND ISRAEL, REFERS TO SOVIET THREAT TO YUGOSLAVIA, AND CALLS FOR STRONG, UNIFIED NATIONAL DEFENSE SYSTEM. END SUMMARY

2. IN INTERVIEW IN CURRENT ISSUE MILITARY THEORETICAL MAGAZINE VOJNO DELO (PUBLISHED IN BELGRADE PRESS DECEMBER 13) TITO LAUNCHED GENERAL DENUNCIATION OF CONTINUING IMPERIALIST EFFORTS PREVENT POPULAR STRUGGLES FOR RIGHTS AND FREEDOM, CITING ATTACKS BY SAIGON ON "LIBERATED TERRITORY", CAMBODIAN STRUGGLE AGAINST "QUISLING LON NOL REGIME", "BRUTAL COUP" OF CHILEAN JUNTA, SUPPRESSION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BY AFRICAN RACIALIST REGIMES AND ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST ARAB TERRITORIES.

3. TITO STATES "ISRAELI PRECEDENT" MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAND. HE PRAISES RESOLVE AND EFFICIENCY OF NONALIGNED, SOCIALIST AND OTHER PEACE-LOVING STATES FOR ISOLATING ISRAEL AND PREVENTING ESCALATION OF MIDDLE EAST WAR. TITO EXPOSES GENERAL FALLACY WHICH
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 05548 141608Z

CLAIMS THAT DANGER OF ATOMIC WAR MAKES POSSIBLE SUBJECTION OF

NATIONS THROUGH MEANS OF "SPECIAL WARFARE" IN "LOCAL WARS".
LOCAL WAR IS LOCAL ONLY AS FAR AS THE AGGRESSOR IS CONCERNED, BUT
IT IS A TOTAL WAR FOR THE COUNTRY WHICH IS THE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION".
DANGER OF ESCALATION ALWAYS EXISTS, AND WITH IT, EXPANSION OF
CONFLICT TO WIDER AREA.

4. TITO TAKES SWIPES AT US BY NOTING "ENORMOUS TECHNICAL MEANS"
SOUTH VIETNAM HAS RECEIVED FROM US FOR USE AGAINST "LIBERATED
TERRITORIES". IN REFERENCE TO ISRAELI POLICY OF AGGRESSION, HE SPEAKS
OF "ATTITUDE OF FORCES WHICH LEND (ISRAEL) SUPPORT AND LAVISH MILITARY
ASSISTANCE" DESPITE EVIDENT DANGERS TO WORLD PEACE.

5. IN DISCUSSING NEED FOR MAINTENANCE OF STRONG YUGOSLAV DEFENSE
POSTURE, HOWEVER, TITO UNMISTAKABLY REFERS TO SOVIET UNION. AFTER
VAGUE REFERENCE TO "INTERMINGLING OF OPPOSING INTERESTS" IN
YUGOSLAVIA'S STRATEGIC AREA, HE ADDS THAT POSTWAR YUGOSLAV
EXPERIENCE PROVED EFFICACY OF SELF-RELIANT FORCES PREPARED TO
DEFEND NATION'S INDEPENDENCE.

6. REMAINDER OF INTERVIEW LARGELY DEVOTED TO GENERAL DISCUSSION
OF MAINTAINING GOOD MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AND POPULAR DEFENSE
UNITS. HE SAID NATIONAL DEFENSE SYSTEM MUST BE UNIFIED; "DEFENSE
OF ANY PART OF OUR TERRITORY EQUALLY CONCERNS US ALL".

7. COMMENT: THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN TITO'S DENUNCIATIONS OF
"IMPERIALIST EFFORTS" OR IN TWO REFERENCES TO US ROLE. ONCE AGAIN
TITO RESORTED TO IDENTIFYING COMMON NONALIGNED AND SOCIALIST
RESOLVE IN STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT
TO OPPOSING ISRAELI "AGGRESSION". THIS FORMULATION WAS FIRST USED
BY TITO IN TOAST DURING KOSYGIN VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA IN SEPTEMBER.
IT WAS OPEN INVITATION FOR SOVIETS TO EMBRACE AND EXPLOIT NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT WHICH KOSYGIN READILY ACCEPTED IN HIS OWN
TOAST. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT SOVIETS MAY WISH TO MAKE OF
THIS FURTHER OPENING. BUT IT IS INTERESTING THAT HE BALANCED HIS
REMARKS WITH A POINTED REFERENCE TO POST-WAR EXPERIENCE WITH
SOVIETS.

8. TITO'S LENGTHY REMARKS ON THE UNITY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
SYSTEM SEEM TO STEM FROM CONVOLUTIONS IN POLICY TOWARD
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PAGE 03 BELGRA 05548 141608Z

PROPER SUBORDINATION OF REPUBLICAN TERRITORIAL AND CIVIL
DEFENSE UNITS. THRUST OF TITO'S EMPHASIS ON UNITY REINFORCES
STRONG TREND TOWARD MORE EXPLICIT INTEGRATION OF TERRITORIAL
DEFENSE SYSTEM INTO OPERATIVE ARMY, ESPECIALLY AS PERTAINS TO
CLEAR-CUT CENTRALIZATION OF COMMAND AND CONTROL AT FEDERAL LEVEL --
AS OPPOSED TO ANY ARGUMENTS FOR SOME DEGREE OF REPUBLICAN
AUTONOMY.
JOHNSON

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